



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Land Use and Environmental Services Agency Code Enforcement

CODE INTERPRETATION

Mechanical/Plumbing

Code Volume Reference: NC Building Code (2012)
NC Plumbing Code (2012)

Code Chapter Reference: 1004 NCBC, 403.1 NCPC

Subject: Occupant Load for Salons (Beauty and Nail)

Effective Date: 1/1/2017

Prepared/Revision Date: October 2016

CODE:

1004.1.1 (NCBC) Areas without fixed seating. The number of occupants shall be computed at the rate of one occupant per unit of area as prescribed in Table 1004.1.1. For areas without fixed seating, the *occupant load* shall not be less than that number determined by dividing the floor area under consideration by the occupant per unit of area factor assigned to the occupancy as set forth in Table 1004.1.1. Where an intended use is not listed in Table 1004.1.1, the *building official* shall establish a use based on a listed use that most nearly resembles the intended use.

1004.2 (NCBC) Increased occupant load. The *occupant load* permitted in any building, or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.1.1, provided that all other requirements of the code are also met based on such modified number and the *occupant load* does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet (0.65 m²) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the *building official*, an *approved aisle*, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in *occupant load* shall be submitted. Where required by the *building official*, such diagram shall be posted.

403.1 (NCPC) Minimum number of fixtures. In new construction or building additions and in changes of occupancy as defined in the *North Carolina Building Code*, plumbing fixtures shall be provided for the type of occupancy and in the minimum number shown in Table 403.1. Types of occupancies not shown in Table 403.1 shall be considered individually by the code official. The number of occupants shall be determined by the

International Building Code. Occupancy classification shall be determined in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

INTERPRETATION:

Salons are classified as a "Business" under the Building Code. The occupant load for the a "B" is 1/100 occupant/sq ft as determine in section 1004 of the NCBC. This works for most "B" occupancies. The density of a salon in many cases is greater than an office environment (i.e.; a 2000 sq ft nail salon can easily have 40 stations).

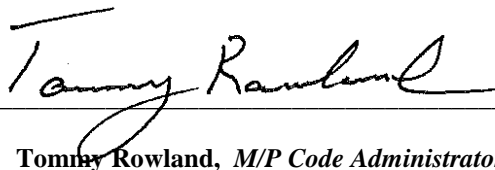
The occupant load shall be calculated by the **greater** of the following methods:

1. Standard occupant calculation per section 1004 NCBC
2. Count each station¹ and multiple by 1.25 (*one customer per station and 1 employee per 4 stations*) plus lobby/waiting areas at 1/15 occupant/sq ft

1. *Nail station, pedicure chair, shampoo sink, barber chair or styling chair*

Prepared by:

Approved By: _____


Tommy Rowland, M/P Code Administrator